

Foreword

This report is an overview of the management of risk due to livestock diseases, a potentially catastrophic type of risk that can have strong external effects given its links to the food chain and to human health. Animal disease, primarily in farmed livestock, has long been a policy concern for food safety reasons and the high economic losses it can engender. The globalisation of trade and human movement, and sensitivities to food safety, enhance the relevance and complexity of disease control for terrestrial livestock. Outbreaks – or even rumours of an outbreak – can result in widespread consumer alarm, disruption of trade, and severe effects on incomes, not to mention the human cost of illnesses and deaths arising from animal disease.

Most governments are widely involved in the prevention and control of diseases that affect the livestock sector. In recent years, there have been a series of animal disease alarms in a wide range of countries, and governments have developed considerable experience and resources in this area. They are nevertheless confronted with significant biotechnical and socio-economic complexities in dealing with actual and potential outbreaks of animal diseases amongst a wide variety of livestock which are in the care of thousands, even millions, of farm producers and others.

This area is also complex in institutional terms. There may be various levels of government (e.g. federal, state, local), as well as different ministries and agencies (e.g. agriculture, finance, veterinary, border control) with significant interests. The private sector involves a range of farm livestock producers (e.g. large and small, accessible and remote, specialised and diversified, more or less knowledgeable), as well as their input suppliers (e.g. of feed, and veterinary services) and downstream processors. Engaging and co-ordinating these individuals and organisations is a formidable task when developing an animal disease policy. In addition, given that disease outbreaks can cross borders, there is a role for international organisations to generate and distribute knowledge (e.g. general scientific, economic, and day-to-day in the case of outbreaks) and co-ordinate policy actions.

This report is a comparative analysis of the experiences of prevention systems, institutional planning, outbreak controls and compensation schemes. Eight countries were studied, taking into account the history, culture and political system of each. Lessons of common interest and potentially wider applicability in the pursuit of greater effectiveness and efficiency are identified. A crucial lesson of this exercise is that incentives are important: if the appropriate agents do not consider it in their own best interests to adopt practices of animal husbandry for disease prevention, and reporting and reacting to disease outbreaks, no policy framework can be expected to work well.

Chapter 1 outlines several general economic issues of disease prevention, followed by a description of the relevant role played by international organisations. Drawing on the country studies, Chapters 2 and 3 deal respectively with disease prevention and control systems, and with compensation schemes. They draw some general conclusions in terms of common features and key differences in policy efficiency. Eight subsequent chapters deal with each country study in some depth, generally following a similar structure depending on whether the focus is on disease prevention and control, and/or on compensation arrangements.

This report is the latest in a series of studies undertaken by OECD in the area of risk management in agriculture (www.oecd.org/agriculture/policies/risk). It combines the findings of two comparative analyses, commissioned by the OECD in 2011, one on animal disease prevention and control systems and the other on compensation and cost-sharing schemes covering five countries and eight countries respectively.

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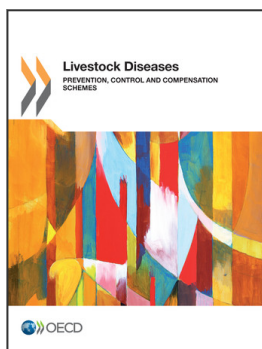
The two consultant groups commissioned were Civic Consulting (Germany) and Phylum Consulting (France). Their reports covered two complementary areas, respectively, compensation and cost sharing systems, and prevention and control systems in selected countries. The two reports were:

- *Management of risks from epidemic livestock diseases: Overview of key issues and comparison of compensation and cost-sharing systems in selected countries*, prepared by a team from Civic Consulting (Germany) led by Frank Alleweldt and Donald Blondin. It covers five countries: Australia, Canada, Germany, The Netherlands and Viet Nam.
- *Management of risks from epidemic livestock diseases: Review and comparison of Prevention and Control systems in selected countries*, prepared by a team from Phylum Consulting (France) led by Francois Gary, and Mathilde Saulnier. It covers five countries: Australia, Botswana, Brazil, Canada and France.

These reports involved consultations with many experts and institutions in the different countries and international organisations. In particular:

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